

## A NEW SPECIES OF *OXYCARENUS* FIEBER FROM AUSTRALIA (HEMIPTERA: LYGAEIDAE)

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### ABSTRACT

*Oxycarenus westraliensis* sp. nov. is described and illustrated from Western Australia and compared with other congeneric species recorded from Australia.

**KEYWORDS:** Taxonomy, Hemiptera, Lygaeidae, *Oxycarenus*, new species, Australia.

### INTRODUCTION

The predominantly Palaeartic lygaeid subfamily Oxycareninae is represented in Australia by 3 species of *Oxycarenus* Fieber: *O. bicolor* Fieber, 1851; *O. arctatus* (Walker, 1872) and *O. luctuosus* (Montrouzier, 1861). The last two species are endemic to Australia — *arctatus* having a primarily southern distribution and *luctuosus* widespread all over Australia but common in the north. Whereas *bicolor*, recorded in Australia from the Torres Strait islands (Queensland), is widespread in the Oriental Region. Gross (1959) reviewed the known Australian species and provided a key for their separation.

The present contribution describes an additional species of the genus *Oxycarenus* and compares it with other Australian recorded species of this genus. All measurements are in millimetres.

### SYSTEMATICS

#### *Oxycarenus westraliensis* sp. nov.

(Figs 1-4)

**Type material.** HOLOTYPE - ♂, Western Australia, Walpole, 16 km W., 34.57°S 116.44°E, 11 November 1969, E.B. Britton and F.H. Uther Baker, in Australian National Insect Collection, CSIRO, Canberra (ANIC). PARATYPE - 1 ♀, same data as holotype (distal 2 segments of left and distal 3 segments of right antennae missing), in ANIC.

**Description.** Generally stramineous with dark brown areas of pronotum, hemelytra and scutellum as in Fig. 1; most of head, femora except distal ends, antennae excluding 2nd segment, most of thoracic pleura, and

labium dark reddish brown to black; bases of tibiae, distal segment of tarsi and claws dark brown; spot at apex of corium not distinct; abdomen almost black except for posterior areas of metapleura and posterior abdominal segments which are pale.

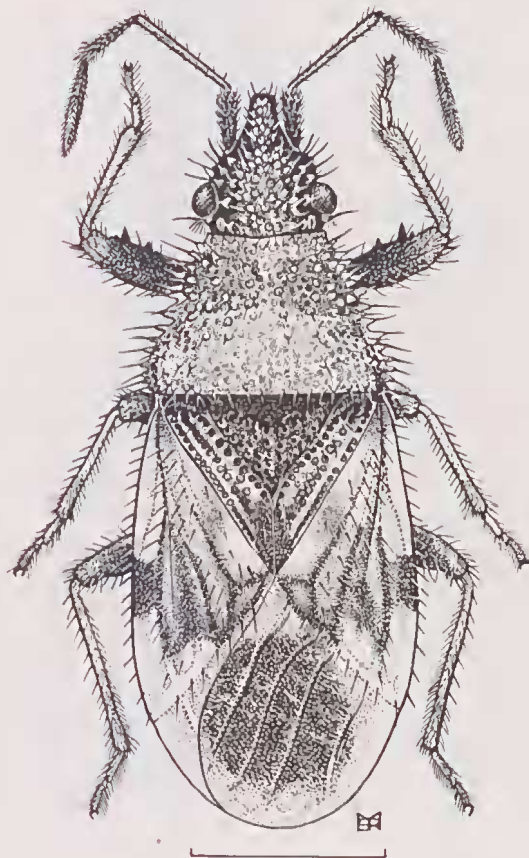


Fig. 1. *Oxycarenus westraliensis* holotype ♂, dorsal view. Scale line 1.0mm.

Body above excluding membrane covered with erect golden yellow bristles; appendages covered with decumbent setae in addition to sparse semierect bristles.

Body elongate ovate.

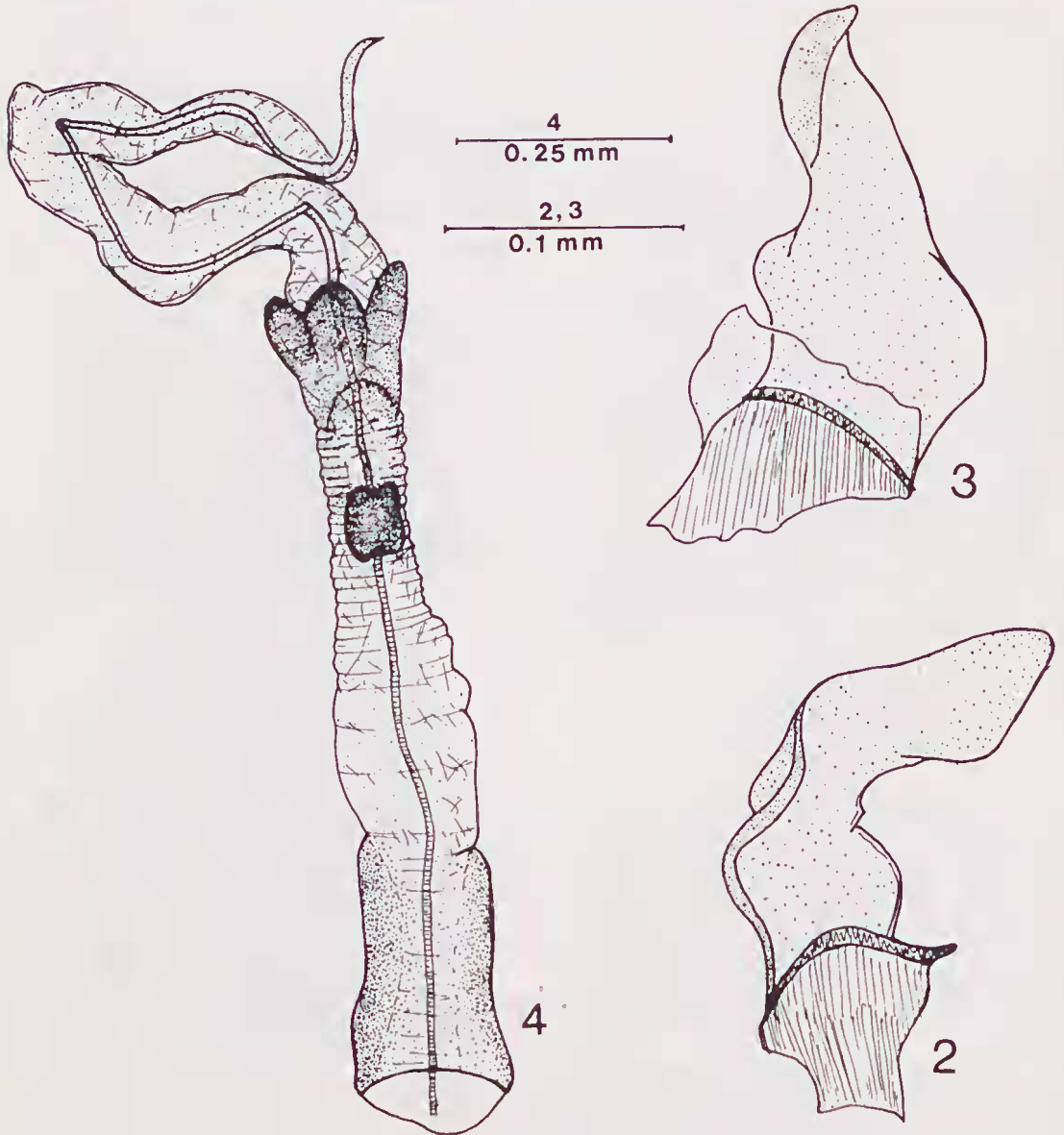
Measurements are of holotype ♂, followed by those of paratype, when different, in parentheses.

Total length 3.8 (3.9); maximum width 1.51.

*Head*: Slightly swollen above between eyes and anterior to eyes, covered with setigerous tubercles, coarsely punctate, jugum slightly

exceeding tylus, length of head 0.75 (0.72), width across eyes 0.74 (0.75), interocular space 0.50, interocellar space 0.31 (0.32), eye-ocellar space 0.07 (0.06), eye length 0.16 (0.15), eye width 0.12 (0.11); antenna with 1st segment exceeding apex of head by  $\frac{1}{3}$ , length of segments: I 0.30 (0.27); II 0.62 (0.66); III 0.34 (segments 3 and 4 missing in paratype); IV 0.49; labium reaching to hind coxae, not exceeding hind coxae, length of segments: I 0.47 (0.40); II 0.54 (0.55); III 0.42 (0.44); IV 0.44.

*Thorax*: Pronotum with lateral margins



Figs 2-4. *Oxycareus westraliensis* holotype ♂: 2, right paramere, dorsal view; 3, same, ventral view; 4, aedeagus.

sinuate, anterior and posterior margins almost straight, covered with coarse punctures, lateral margins and disc covered with conspicuous setigerous tubercles, tubercles less developed on disc of posterior lobe, length 0.79 (0.78), width anterior margin 0.58 (0.61), width posterior margin 1.14 (1.24); scutellum covered with coarse punctures, transversely depressed near base, length 0.39 (0.44), width 0.54 (0.60); femora incrassate, fore femora armed ventrally with 4 spines, distal most smallest; hemelytra well exceeding abdomen, clavus with 3 rows of coarse punctures, middle row incomplete towards distal end, a few irregular punctures in between inner and middle rows, corial distal margin straight, distal angle not rounded but fairly acute, length hemelytra 2.2 (2.3), length of corium 1.55 (1.50), length claval commissure 0.38 (0.42), width membrane 0.89 (1.00).

*Abdomen:* Dorsal scent gland scars between terga 4-5 and 5-6 subequal, abdominal terga 3-5 membranous with only light sclerotization medially.

*Female genitalia:* Ovipositor with ramus traversing to most length of 1st gonapophysis.

*Male genitalia:* Pygophore posteriorly rounded; paramere (Figs 2,3), shank with dorsal (outer) and ventral (inner) lobes, blade strongly curved and broadened (Fig. 2); aedeagus (Fig. 4) long, phallosome lightly sclerotized, conjunctiva without lobes, ejaculatory reservoir with well developed body, wings apparently absent, vesica with sclerotized processes near base, vesica distal

to processes narrow, elongate and looped as in Fig. 4, gradually narrowed to form short pointed gonoporal process.

**Notes.** This species may be readily distinguished from all the other species of the genus *Oxycarenus* recorded from Australia by the presence of conspicuous tubercles on the pronotum and head, the slightly more swollen head between and anterior of eyes, the shorter labium which does not exceed the hind coxae, the coarsely punctate head, pronotum, scutellum and the clavus, and the general colouration of body and appendages.

Samy (1969) distinguished 3 subgenera within the genus *Oxycarenus* and the present species falls in the subgenus *Oxycarenus*, except for the following rather minor characteristics: spot at distal angle of corium not distinct and the distal angle of corium somewhat pointed but not rounded.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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